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8	BEFORE THE
9	STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
10	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 2016-22
12	JOHN K. SCOBLE
13	555 North Guild Avenue Lodi, California 95240 A C C U S A T I O N
14	Field Representative License No. FR 46126
15	
16	Respondent.
17	Susan Saylor ("Complainant") alleges:
18	PARTIES
19	1. Complainant brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the
20	Registrar/Executive Officer of the Structural Pest Control Board ("Board"), Department of
21	Consumer Affairs.
22	Field Representative License
23	2. On or about November 2, 2010, the Board issued Field Representative License
24	Number FR 46126 in Branch 2 to John K. Scoble, also known as John Keith Scoble
25	("Respondent"), as an employee of Clark Pest Control. The field representative license was in full
26	force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on June 30,
27	2016, unless renewed.
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# STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

3. Business and Professions Code ("Code") section 8620 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may suspend or revoke a license when it finds that the holder, while a licensee or applicant, has committed any acts or omissions constituting cause for disciplinary action or in lieu of a suspension may assess a civil penalty.

## 4. Code section 8654 states:

Any individual who has been denied a license for any of the reasons specified in Section 8568, or who has had his or her license revoked, or whose license is under suspension, or who has failed to renew his or her license while it was under suspension, or who has been a member, officer, director, associate, qualifying manager, or responsible managing employee of any partnership, corporation, firm, or association whose application for a company registration has been denied for any of the reasons specified in Section 8568, or whose company registration has been revoked as a result of disciplinary action, or whose company registration is under suspension, and while acting as such member, officer, director, associate, qualifying manager, or responsible managing employee had knowledge of or participated in any of the prohibited acts for which the license or registration was denied, suspended or revoked, shall be prohibited from serving as an officer, director, associate, partner, qualifying manager, or responsible managing employee of a registered company, and the employment, election or association of such person by a registered company is a ground for disciplinary action.

#### 5. Code section 8641 states:

Failure to comply with the provisions of this chapter, or any rule or regulation adopted by the board, or the furnishing of a report of inspection without the making of a bona fide inspection of the premises for wood-destroying pests or organisms, or furnishing a notice of work completed prior to the completion of the work specified in the contract, is a ground for disciplinary action.

#### Code section 8593 states:

The board shall require as a condition to the renewal of each operator's and field representative's license that the holder submit proof satisfactory to the board that he or she has informed himself or herself of developments in the field of pest control either by completion of courses of continuing education in pest control approved by the board or equivalent activity approved by the board. In lieu of submitting that proof, the license holder, if he or she so desires, may take and successfully complete an examination given by the board, designed to test his or her knowledge of developments in the field of pest control since the issuance of his or her license.

The board shall develop a correspondence course or courses with any educational institution or institutions as it deems appropriate. This course may be used to fulfill the requirements of this section. The institution may charge a reasonable fee for each course.

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The board may charge a fee for the taking of an examination in each branch of pest control pursuant to this section in an amount sufficient to cover the cost of administering each examination, provided, however, that in no event shall the fee exceed fifty dollars (\$50) for each examination.

- 7. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section ("Regulation") 1950 states, in pertinent part:
  - (a) Except as provided in section 1951, every licensee is required, as a condition to renewal of a license, to certify that he or she has completed the continuing education requirements set forth in this article. A licensee who cannot verify completion of continuing education by producing certificates of activity completion, whenever requested to do so by the Board, may be subject to disciplinary action under section 8641 of the code.
  - (d) Field representatives licensed in one branch of pest control shall have completed 16 continuing education hours, field representatives licensed in two branches of pest control shall have completed 20 continuing education hours, field representatives licensed in three branches of pest control shall have completed 24 continuing education hours during each three year renewal period. In each case, a minimum of four continuing education hours in a technical subject directly related to each branch of pest control held by the licensee must be completed for each branch of pest control licensed, a minimum of two hours in Integrated Pest Management must be completed by Branch 2 and/or 3 licensees renewing on or after June 30, 2010, and a minimum of eight hours must be completed from Board approved courses on the Structural Pest Control Act, the Rules and Regulations, or structural pest control related agencies' rules and regulations. . . .

## **COST RECOVERY**

8. Code section 125.3 states, in pertinent part, that a Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

# FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Failure to Verify Completion of Continuing Education)

- 9. In or around May 2013 Respondent submitted a license renewal application for a field representative to the Board. On or about May 20, 2013, Respondent certified under penalty of perjury on the application form that he completed 21 hours of continuing education during his last renewal period.
- 10. On or about October 15, 2014, Respondent was notified in writing that he had been selected for a continuing education audit. Respondent had failed to answer the letter. Respondent

had been requested on prior occasions to provide the Board with proof of completion of continuing education requirements.<sup>1</sup> On or about January 6, 2015, the Board sent Respondent a written request for proof of continuing education certificates for the renewal period July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013. Respondent was advised that licensees who were unable to verify their continuing education hours were subject to disciplinary action.

11. Respondent is subject to discipline pursuant to Code section 8641, because he failed to comply with Code Section 8593 and Regulation 1950(a), by failing to produce verification of Board approved completed courses of continuing education in pest control. Despite repeated requests, Respondent never produced copies of continuing education certificates for the renewal period July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013.

## OTHER MATTERS

- 12. Code section 8620 provides, in pertinent part, that a respondent may request that a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 be assessed in lieu of an actual suspension of one (1) to nineteen (19) days, or not more than \$10,000 for an actual suspension of 20 to 45 days. The request must be made at the time of the hearing and must be noted in the proposed decision. The proposed decision shall not provide that a civil penalty shall be imposed in lieu of a suspension.
- 13. Pursuant to Code section 8654, if discipline is imposed on Field Representative License Number FR 46126, issued to Respondent John K. Scoble, also known as John Keith Scoble, then John K. Scoble, also known as John Keith Scoble, shall be prohibited from serving as an officer, director, associate, partner, qualifying manager, or responsible managing employee for any registered company during the time the discipline is imposed, and any registered company which employs, elects, or associates him shall be subject to disciplinary action.

#### <u>PRAYER</u>

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Structural Pest Control Board issue a decision:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> On or about January 3, 2014, March 21, 2014, August 1, 2014, September 10, 2014, and September 25, 2014, the Board sent written requests to Respondent for copies of his certificates of course completion demonstrating compliance with his continuing education requirement for the period July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013.